

Appalachian Ohio Regional Highlights 2012

Creating Jobs and Promoting Economic Development

Applauding Yorkville Steel Plant Acquisition and New Ohio Steel Jobs

RG Steel, which owned a plant in Jefferson County, filed for bankruptcy in May, leaving the workers and community unsure of the future. As Sen. Brown worked to find a company to buy the plant, he appealed to U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) Secretary Hilda Solis and Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Commissioner Douglas Shulman asking them to ensure that eligible RG Steel employees and retirees receive benefits to help them transition to new jobs, and if needed, also purchase affordable health coverage. In October, DOL announced that an incremental National Emergency Grant (NEG) of \$450,777 would continue providing reemployment services to workers affected by layoffs at six RG Steel facilities, including Yorkville.

That same month, after Sen. Brown worked with Esmark, the United Steel Workers, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to move a deal forward, Esmark announced the acquisition of RG Steel's plant in Yorkville. The company expects to restart the Yorkville facility in January 2012 and bring 160 jobs back to the area. The completed acquisition will bring the company's total Ohio investment to \$85 million and increase its number of Ohio employees to 350.

Esmark will rename the Yorkville company the Ohio Cold Rolling Company. The newly-named facility will be majority owned and operated by Esmark Steel Group. Ohio Coatings Company will become a 50-50 joint venture between Esmark and TCC Steel.

Training More Ohioans for Jobs in Emerging Shale Development Industry

Shale development has potential to bring new economic development and create jobs in Ohio. In addition to protecting our public safety and health, we must ensure that these jobs are going to Ohioans—not out-of-state workers.

Eastern Gateway Community College (EGCC) offers several training programs, including a U.S. Department of Labor-funded initiative that works to ensure that local residents are qualified and can be hired for new jobs in the oil and gas industry. In June, Sen. Brown visited the shale gas training center at EGCC in Steubenville to outline his plan to train out-of-work Ohioans for jobs in emerging, high-tech industries like shale development. The Retrain America and ShaleNet programs at EGCC are designed to train locals for shale exploration positions. Sen. Brown was joined by Tracee Joltes, assistant director of workforce outreach at EGCC, and Kim Cline, the project manager at Progress Alliance, the economic development partnership between Jefferson County, the City of



Stuebenville, and the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce, to discuss how the school's shale training programs are helping ensure local residents fill jobs in the shale industry.

Sen. Brown also visited Zane State College's Willett Pratt Training Center in Cambridge to meet with students training for welding jobs. Sen. Brown was joined by a student currently enrolled in the shale development training program and by Zane State President Paul Brown to discuss the *SECTORS Act*. Zane State offers the training needed to fill jobs in shale development and the Safeland Training course required by oil and gas companies for employees and contractors. Zane State offers courses such as welding, oil and gas business programs, and accounting.



Finally, Sen. Brown met with employees at TremCar's Dover facility, which manufactures tankers for use in shale development and the petroleum industry. He was joined by Roger Bond, the superintendent of the Buckeye Career Center, and Jacques Tremblay, CEO of TremCar to highlight his plan to train out-of-work Ohioans for jobs in emerging, high-tech industries. TremCar has been coordinating with the Buckeye Career Center and Stark State College to train Ohioans for new jobs in the natural gas industry.

Continuing Clean-up and Recovery Efforts in Piketon

The American Centrifuge Plant (ACP) in Piketon can be an economic engine to power Southern Ohio. Sen. Brown is working closely with the community and is leading the fight in Congress to accelerate the cleanup, stabilize jobs, and advance redevelopment of the former Piketon Gaseous Diffusion Plant.

Sen. Brown has been working with the community, Congress, and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to ensure that the site – using multiple revenue streams – has the funding to keep the cleanup and the workforce stable. In January, Sen. Brown held a forum in Piketon to discuss the cleanup, and he pressed a top DOE official for a progress report on the cleanup of the site. Sen. Brown's work with DOE helped stabilize the cleanup workforce at more than 2,300 workers.

The Site Specific Advisory Board that Sen. Brown helped to create four years ago continued its work in developing plans for future reuse of the site. On the site, USEC, Inc. intends to complete the construction and operation of the ACP, which would ensure that the United States maintains a domestic uranium enrichment capability vital to our national security. ACP faced a number of hurdles this year but continues to remain on track and is progressing towards receiving a DOE Loan Guarantee, which would help create 4,000 jobs in Southern Ohio.

In June, Sen. Brown announced a framework for USEC and the DOE that will advance critical resources for the ACP. The framework includes a cost-sharing agreement that gives the ACP

resources for research, development, and deployment (RD&D) by utilizing “tails,” a byproduct of uranium enrichment, and self-funding from USEC. In the first year, DOE will provide approximately \$88 million by taking title to and disposal responsibility of depleted uranium tails from USEC. USEC will provide an additional \$22 million in the first phase of the project, representing a 20 percent cost share.

Sen. Brown also led a bipartisan effort to include \$150 million in the Senate highway bill to help ensure that the ACP is in the strongest position possible to receive a loan guarantee from DOE. The U.S. House of Representatives, however, failed to include critical resources for Piketon in their highway bill. Sen. Brown continued the fight, and in September, Congress approved \$100 million for the centrifuge project – funding the project for six additional months. The funds received bicameral and bipartisan support and put the project closer to a DOE loan guarantee. Sen. Brown also secured an additional \$150 million in funding for the ACP in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) in December.

Sen. Brown will continue to work to ensure ACP is in the strongest position possible to keep Ohioans at work, expedite commercialization of ACP technology, and protect national security.

Opening a New Entrepreneurship and Technology Center at Ohio University-Chillicothe

A representative from Sen. Brown’s office attended the February grand opening ceremony for the newly-renovated Entrepreneurship and Technology Center at Ohio University’s Chillicothe campus. The new building represents Ohio University’s commitment to providing high-tech, quality facilities and equipment to students and will offer Ohio’s future business leaders opportunities and support to develop critical skills and launch businesses that will create jobs in Ross County.

In 2012, Sen. Brown reintroduced the *Business Incubator Promotion Act*, which would make



more communities in Ohio eligible to receive funds that support business incubators through the Economic Development Administration (EDA). This bill would encourage the formation of business incubators in distressed communities to promote innovation and entrepreneurship, helping regions to create high-skill, high-wage jobs. It would also give EDA authority to reduce the non-federal share, or local match, to 20 percent of the cost of a project or to waive the local share if the unemployment rate of the

area exceeds 12 percent. These incubators are places where entrepreneurs can get the support they need during the most difficult startup phase of a new business.

Equipping Start-Up Businesses in Appalachian Ohio with the Tools They Need to Grow

Incubators like the Muskingum County Business Incubator (MCBI) are critical in helping Ohio’s small businesses grow. MCBI has helped launch more than 25 businesses and provided

consultant services for another 300 businesses.

In April, Sen. Brown visited the MCBI in Zanesville to unveil a new jobs initiative that would increase resources for business incubators to help start-up companies. While there, he highlighted TicketCrush.com, a ticket brokerage firm based at MCBI, which is planning to expand. TicketCrush.com is one of the many home-grown businesses that are expanding and hiring new workers thanks to business incubators and is MCBI's first \$2 million company.



Creating a Regional Business Workforce Training Center in Nelsonville

Economic development is on the rise in Ohio's small towns and rural communities. With support from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), new funds are available to help train workers for good-paying Ohio jobs. In August, Sen. Brown announced an ARC grant award for the Tri-County Career Center in Athens County to create a custom training facility that existing area businesses can use to train incumbent workers as well as new hires. The grant will fund training programs for topics ranging from customer service, hazardous materials, computer applications, regulatory compliance, and human relations policy.

Promoting Economic Growth at the Coshocton Federal Credit Union

The Coshocton Federal Credit Union is a critical resource for maintaining and growing Ohio's economy. Sen. Brown announced new federal resources for the Coshocton Federal Credit Union awarded through a competitive grant from the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (CDFI). The CDFI, administered by the U.S. Treasury Department, helps rural and low-income communities that lack access to affordable financial products and services. The resources will help build upon Coshocton County's existing strengths while bringing new development to the region.

Helping Appalachian Ohio Small Businesses Grow and Add Jobs

Making Low-Interest Loans Available for Small Businesses Affected by Severe Weather

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) can provide federal, low-interest disaster loans to agricultural cooperatives, small aquaculture businesses, most private non-profit organizations, and small business owners affected by severe weather. Sen. Brown announced that small business owners in Athens, Gallia, Jackson, Lawrence, Meigs, Pike, Ross, Scioto, and Vinton Counties who experienced financial loss due to excessive rain, flooding, and flash floods in 2012 are eligible for this federal assistance from SBA. These loans will help Ohio agricultural co-ops, non-profits, and small businesses rebuild and get back on their feet.

Helping Small Businesses in Appalachia Access Capital

Small businesses—especially in rural communities—are the backbone of our economy, creating up to two-thirds of new jobs in our country. Access to capital is vital for these small businesses.

In March, Sen. Brown announced new federal resources to help bolster two small businesses in Guernsey County. The Ohio Bridge Corporation and C-Z Company will receive a business and industry guaranteed loan from U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development to refinance debt in order to improve access to capital and obtain better rates and terms. The financial assistance is expected to save 130 jobs.

Sen. Brown also announced in May that a Holmes County business will receive a federal loan from USDA to save 30 existing jobs and create two new positions. Trico Enterprises, in Millersburg, will receive a \$1.4 million loan from USDA's Rural Development branch. According to USDA Rural Development, the loan will be used to purchase an existing saw mill and woodworking manufacturing facility. Funding from this project will save 30 jobs and will create two new jobs.

In June, USDA's Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG) Program awarded funds to the Meigs County Community Improvement Corporation. The grant will establish a revolving loan fund for local, emerging businesses. Because of these federal resources, small businesses throughout Ohio will have a better shot at creating new opportunities and jobs in small towns and rural areas. The new loan fund will be used for gap financing, and loans will be granted to small and emerging businesses on a need basis.

Building Appalachian Ohio Infrastructure and Transportation

Expanding Broadband Access Across Appalachian Ohio

Expanding broadband service is essential to growing the economies of Ohio's rural communities. Bridging the "digital divide" will ensure that all Ohioans have access to web-based information and services, allowing rural communities and businesses to compete in the global economy.



In September, Sen. Brown joined business owners in Chillicothe to highlight how broadband expansion has helped improve business and promote economic development in Southern Ohio. He visited Horizon Telcom to highlight the Ohio Middle Mile Consortium (OMMC) project that will expand access to broadband for 34 counties in Appalachia. When completed, the project will deploy more than 1,900 miles of fiber optic network to connect nearly 600 community anchors, including schools, hospitals, and libraries. OMMC and Horizon's cooperation will help promote economic growth and improve the competitiveness of Ohio communities in underserved areas. This is an investment in the future of Ohio.

Additionally, a representative from Sen. Brown's office attended a ribbon cutting to mark the beginning of a last-mile expansion project to connect Washington County with broadband

access. Smart Networks signed a contract with the Washington County Commissioners that will close the digital divide for the entire county, promoting economic growth and improving the competitiveness of the region.

In July, The Federal Communications Commission's Connect America Fund awarded Frontier Communications Corp. and CenturyLink in Ohio with \$1,814,100 to build broadband infrastructure in more than 2,300 locations around Ohio over the next three years.

Sen. Brown has been a longtime advocate for expanding broadband access in Appalachia. He led the charge to secure U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) funding for the OMMC project through the Recovery Act. In April, Sen. Brown introduced legislation to expand access to broadband for Ohio's rural communities. *The Connecting Rural America Act* would strengthen existing U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs that provide for the construction, improvement, and acquisition of facilities and equipment to provide broadband service to underserved, rural communities.

Sen. Brown's bill reauthorizes the Rural Broadband Loan Program, created in the 2002 Farm Bill and modified in the 2008 Farm Bill, through 2017 and adds a grant component to the existing program. Under this legislation, USDA would be authorized to provide grants, in addition to the current grant-loan package, to specifically target small, remote, and high-poverty communities.

Currently, Ohio has the 40th lowest rate of rural broadband availability in the U.S. with more than 40 percent of Ohio's rural population lacking high-speed internet access. By connecting rural Ohio to the web and bridging the "digital divide," Ohio's rural schools, businesses, and communities have an opportunity to compete on a national and global level.

Improving Rail Infrastructure and Creating Jobs in Lawrence County

The Point Industrial Park, in Lawrence County, will soon have access to the Norfolk Southern Heartland Corridor Railroad, boosting economic development and attracting new businesses, because of new federal resources announced by Sen. Brown. The Economic Development Administration (EDA) awarded a grant to build a rail spur connecting the industrial park to a double-stacked train car line. According to the Lawrence Economic Development Corporation's application, the project will save 500 jobs and create 186 jobs. By linking the Point Industrial Park with this critical transit artery, Southern Ohio businesses will gain access to new markets to send and sell their goods throughout the United States and demonstrate how transportation improvements can create jobs and attract new economic development in Lawrence County.

Saving and Creating Jobs with Greenfield Rail Line Upgrade

Improving the Greenfield rail line will create construction jobs now and make permanent upgrades attracting new companies to Highland County and allowing existing ones to expand markets and ramp-up production. In March, Sen. Brown urged the Economic Development Administration (EDA) to approve the Village of Greenfield's grant application, despite EDA notification to the community of deficiencies in its application. Though significant improvements were made to address the deficiencies, the application was denied in July. After working with Sen. Brown's office to strengthen the application—and a September meeting where representatives from Sen. Brown's office urged EDA to move forward—the application was approved.

This funding is expected to create 72 jobs, save more than 800 jobs at local companies including Johnson Controls, Huhtamaki, and Candlelite, and provide an ideal site for future economic investment.

The EDA grant will allow the Village of Greenfield to move forward on structural enhancements to the line that runs from Greenfield to Midland. The improvements will provide regional manufacturers with more reliable transportation options and allow the region's industrial manufacturing cluster to grow.

Protecting the Historic Integrity of Village of Zoar during Levee Study and Construction

The Zoar levee in Tuscarawas County was built to help one of Ohio's historic communities thrive along the Tuscarawas River, but this aging structure is in urgent need of repair or replacement. In September, Sen. Brown joined with Ohioans in and around Tuscarawas County in calling for the Village of Zoar to be preserved. He and Sen. Portman introduced legislation to protect the Village of Zoar as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) studies ways to manage the town's aging levee. The bill would require the USACE to preserve the historic integrity of Zoar in any study or construction activities related to the village's levee.

During visits to Tuscarawas County, Sen. Brown heard from Ohioans who want the Village of Zoar to be preserved. The legislation ensures that Zoar is protected by requiring the USACE to preserve its historic integrity—either while studying the levee, or while rebuilding it. There is widespread, bipartisan support for protecting Zoar, and Sen. Brown is committed to ensuring that this extraordinary village remains intact.

Updating Water Infrastructure in Appalachia

Ohio's rural communities and small towns face a heavy burden when financing infrastructure projects. Communities need water and sewer upgrades to keep the public safe, protect water sources from pollution and contamination, and to remain economically competitive. Sen. Brown is working to help Appalachian communities struggling to afford costly but necessary renovations to water and sewer systems.

In February, Sen. Brown introduced *the Clean Water Affordability Act*, legislation that would help communities make renovations to outdated sewer systems, while improving water quality and keeping rates affordable for residents and small business.

Sen. Brown announced that the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) awarded grants to the Villages of Adena, Reedsville, New Straitsville, Seaman Village, and to the Ohio EPA for the Village of Belle Valley to modernize water systems and provide residents with improved water quality and encourage investment.

Sen. Brown and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) also announced a grant award totaling \$388,000 for the town of Neffs in Belmont County. The funds will be used to replace outdated septic systems with a new public sewer system and will help support critically important infrastructure improvements in Neffs, protecting public health and attracting new jobs.

Maintaining Roads in Appalachia

Motorists, residents, and businesses in Appalachian Ohio deserve efficient and safe roads. Sen. Brown announced that the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) awarded a \$469,500 grant to the City of Marietta to widen and resurface 0.8 miles of Mill Creek Road. According to the ARC, the project will provide much improved access to an industrial site serving the bio-medical industry and other businesses. The project will support the retention of more than 600 full-time jobs. Local resources will also provide \$150,000 in funding.

Sen. Brown also announced that Green Township will receive a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development to purchase a new backhoe to maintain the roads under its jurisdiction.

Supporting Servicemembers, Veterans, and Law Enforcement

Connecting Ohio Veterans with New Employment Opportunities

Sen. Brown was an original cosponsor of the *VOW to Hire Heroes Act*, a veterans jobs law enacted in November that created the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP). VRAP is a joint Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Department of Labor training initiative that provides unemployed veterans between the ages of 35 and 60 the opportunity to pursue training for new careers in high demand occupations.

In July and August, Sen. Brown traveled across Ohio to encourage eligible Ohio veterans to apply. From Youngstown to Dayton to Toledo, Sen. Brown joined veterans who will train for new careers at Ohio schools to encourage more Ohio veterans to apply for VRAP assistance.

In July, Sen. Brown held a news conference call with Tony Blankenship, a jobless veteran from Belmont County to encourage more veterans to apply for the program. Mr. Blankenship is an Air Force veteran who served from 1991-2000. He was accepted into the VRAP program and used the funds to begin studying radiology at Belmont College this fall.



Helping Appalachian Police Departments to Hire Recently-Returned Veterans

Too many police departments across Ohio have had to lay off police officers due to budget challenges, while too many recently-returned veterans have struggled to find work. Safe communities depend on the expertise of well-trained law enforcement officers. The new “Vets to COPS” program helps police departments hire recently returned military veterans and invests in the men and women who devote their lives to protecting Ohioans—both as members of our Armed Forces and as law enforcement officers.

Sen. Brown announced that the McArthur Police Department in Vinton County and the Greenfield Police Department in Highland County will receive new federal resources from the

U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) to each hire a recently-retired military veteran through the new Vets to COPS program. The Vets to COPS program requires that all new officers hired under the grant must be military veterans that have served at least 180 days of active military service, any part of which occurred on or after September 11, 2001. The funds will enable the McArthur and Greenfield Police Departments to hire a highly-trained, dedicated public servant to keep our streets safe.

Listening to Ohio's Veterans

Many of Ohio's veterans continue serving our nation long after leaving active duty. Sen. Brown remains committed to assisting veterans facing difficulties in transitioning from service to civilian or struggling to attain the benefits and services they have earned. In June, representatives from Sen. Brown's office convened roundtable listening sessions with veterans in St. Clairsville, Tuscarawas, Marietta, and Zanesville. Sen. Brown's representatives were on-hand to assist with casework issues and receive feedback on issues including access to care, claims processing, information dissemination, veterans' service improvements, and more.

Bolstering Firefighter Safety to Improve Firefighter Preparedness and Response

Ohio's first responders put their lives on the line every day. Federal resources ensure that firefighters across Appalachian Ohio have the resources they need to perform their jobs safely. Sen. Brown announced new federal resources awarded to fire departments in Athens, Belmont, Holmes, Jefferson, and Muskingum Counties. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Assistance to Firefighters Grants program will provide the funds to help operation and safety.

Protecting and Supporting Consumers and the Middle Class

Helping Seniors Avoid Financial Scams

Criminals may see seniors—who have often saved their entire lives to enjoy retirement—as ripe targets for financial fraud. As part of Financial Literacy Month and an ongoing effort to equip citizens with financial management skills and ways to avoid fraud and scams, Sen. Brown's office and the Federal Trade Commission held a seminar in Cambridge to help seniors avoid scams and protect their finances. By providing seniors with the tools to protect themselves, we can prevent scams while providing retirees with the information they need to keep their nest egg safe and sound.

Helping Appalachian Ohioans Recover from Severe Storms

Last summer's severe storms left many Ohio families and small businesses hurting. New funds from the U.S. Department of Labor's National Emergency Grant (NEG) award will help Athens, Belmont, Scioto, Vinton, and Washington Counties recover from storms and flooding in the spring of 2011. This funding will help small businesses, families, and communities throughout Southeast Ohio while putting Ohioans to work.

Encouraging the Safe Disposal of Unused Medications

Abuse of prescription drugs—especially painkillers—can devastate communities. Too many teenagers can get prescription drugs from the family medicine cabinet or from family and friends who no longer use the medicine they were legally prescribed. All prescription medications—

especially painkillers like Oxycontin and Vicodin—should be disposed of safely to prevent them from falling into the wrong hands.

As part of National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day, Sen. Brown visited the Zanesville prescription “take-back” site and urged Muskingum County residents to safely dispose of unused prescription drugs. Sen. Brown was joined by Health Commissioner Corey Hamilton and Steve Carrel, executive director of Muskingum Behavioral Health at the Zanesville-Muskingum County Health Department to discuss efforts to crack down on the prescription drug abuse epidemic.

When criminals defraud the Medicaid system to fuel prescription abuse, it’s a one-two punch to the stomach of Ohio taxpayers. Prescription drug abuse must be treated like the epidemic it is – and that means drawing a hard line against criminals, fraud, and abuse. Sen. Brown is working to establish a Medicaid lock-in program to help stop those Medicaid enrollees who have been misusing their Medicaid cards from continuing this costly and dangerous practice. The doctor-shoppers and pharmacy hoppers are on notice: Ohio taxpayers will not finance criminal activity or feed drug addiction.

Supporting Ohio’s Students

Keeping College Affordable for Ohio Students

Now more than ever, a college degree is the key to good-paying jobs and a secure future. But increasingly high debt means fewer students will be able to buy a home, start a business or continue on to graduate school. Students who are already struggling to afford higher education should not worry about high interest rates and bills rolling in after graduation.

In September, Sen. Brown joined students at Ohio University (OU) to discuss efforts to keep college affordable for all Ohioans. He heard from OU students who are struggling with college loans and called on Obama administration officials to ease the burden for Ohio students and emphasized the serious economic implications that increasing levels of student loan debt have for our economy.

Sen. Brown led the fight in the Senate to block the interest rates for federally-subsidized Stafford loans from doubling from 3.4 to 6.8 percent on July 1, 2012. Legislation to maintain the current rate was included in legislation passed by Congress in June. Sen. Brown will continue working to ensure that all Ohio students have access to fair loan options that provide affordable payment plans, loan forgiveness, deferment options, or cancellation rights.



Welcoming Ohio Students to the Nation’s Capital

Sen. Brown met with roughly 70 eighth-grade students and staff from Newcomerstown Middle School, in Tuscarawas County, on their eighth-grade trip to Washington, D.C. in May. Sen. Brown always enjoys meeting with students both at home in Ohio and in our nation’s capital. The Newcomerstown Middle School students asked questions that demonstrate the excellence of Ohio’s schools and teachers. Sen. Brown will continue to fight for the resources needed to ensure that their future remains bright and these students become active participants in our democracy. Newcomerstown Middle School serves 270 students living in Coshocton, Guernsey, and Tuscarawas counties.

Supporting Social Security, Medicare, and Healthcare

Welcoming Vital Health Service Improvements to Noble County

For more than 80 years, the Noble County Health Department (NCHD) has provided vital resources, education, and access to affordable health care services. In 2010, Sen. Brown secured nearly \$400,000 in federal funding for NCHD to support renovations, community services, and energy efficiency upgrades. Those upgrades were on display at NCHD’s March open house.

“We have upgraded to a building that extends its life, increases functionality, and lowers operation costs. Public service is our role; the building is just one tool in providing that public service. We cannot begin to appropriately thank Sen. Brown for his efforts in obtaining this funding,” said Noble County Health Commissioner Shawn Ray.

Expanding Access to Care at Community Health Centers

Community health centers play a vital role in Ohio’s health care system, reducing emergency room use and providing critical services to patients who otherwise would have no access to care. Ohio Hills Health Services in Barnesville, a community health center in Belmont County, and



Community Action Agency of Columbiana County received federal resources to expand access to health care. The funds, awarded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Health Resources and Services Administrations (HRSA) Health Center New Access Point grants, will create health center jobs and help more Ohioans access more affordable preventive care rather than rely on costly emergency room visits – that are often billed to taxpayers.

Improving and Upgrading Medical Equipment in Appalachian Health Care Systems

Quality health care services—especially in rural communities—are crucial to every Ohioan’s safety. The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) awarded new federal resources to the Genesis HealthCare System in Zanesville for critical emergency response equipment. Genesis HealthCare System will use the grant to purchase 12-Lead Electrocardiogram (EKG) monitors and transmission systems for use in all 24 EMS and fire departments in Guernsey, Morgan, Muskingum, and Perry Counties. The EKGs will help prevent, diagnose, and treat heart attacks

for hundreds of patients each year. Residents and patients in Guernsey, Morgan, Muskingum, and Perry counties rely on a modern health care system unhindered by geographical distance through the Genesis HealthCare System. These federal resources will ensure that Eastern Ohioans experiencing cardiac arrest will receive efficient, high-tech care.

In June, Sen. Brown announced that Adena Health System in Ross County will receive a loan from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to purchase new cardiac equipment, including EKGs and defibrillators. These new resources will allow Adena Health System to respond quickly to medical emergencies and save lives in southern Ohio.

According to USDA Rural Development, the loan will be used to purchase 12 Lead EKGs and 8 LIFEPAK 15 Monitors/Defibrillators for an EMS Telemetry project. This new equipment will allow Emergency Medical Technicians to record an EKG in the patient's home, view information on-site, and electronically transmit it to the closest emergency health care provider. Because emergency response times in rural areas are significantly higher than state and national averages—and heart disease and heart attack mortality rates are much higher in Ross County than state and national rates—the equipment will be used to improve both delivery and quality of care for cardiac patients in South-central Ohio.

The Highland Joint Township District Hospital in Highland County also received new federal resources to upgrade the hospital's breast cancer screening services. Sen. Brown announced that the ARC awarded a grant for Highland Joint Township District Hospital in Hillsboro to purchase a Siemens Healthcare Mammomat Inspiration Digit Mammography System. According to the ARC, the new system will allow the hospital to conduct 3,000 mammograms annually. The new system will replace the analog film unit that the hospital currently uses.

Expanding Nutrition Program in Nine Athens-Area Schools

School nutrition programs ensure that students get the healthy food they need to perform well both in and out of the classroom. *Live Healthy Appalachia*, a program that has proven to reduce body mass index, influence food choices among children and parents, and encourage improvements in school lunch programs, received new federal resources to expand its Food is Elementary nutrition program. Sen. Brown announced that the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) awarded a grant to *Live Healthy Appalachia* to expand its program in Athens County. These new federal resources will help Athens County students establish good eating habits so that they can live long and healthy lives.

Supporting Appalachian Ohio's Agricultural and Rural Economy

Championing Rural Communities

During Ohio's Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP) conference in Columbus in August, Sen. Brown was named RCAP's "Rural Champion of the Year." Strong rural communities and a thriving rural economy demand investment in business development and basic infrastructure. Sen. Brown fought to include support for rural communities in the 2012 Farm Bill and will continue to work to pass a five-year farm bill that will create jobs, boost development, and promote growth in rural America.

Supporting Appalachian Agricultural Producers Affected by Flash Flooding

Ohio producers whose livelihoods are threatened by no fault of their own deserve economic relief so they can replant and rebuild. Sen. Brown announced new federal assistance through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for Ohio farmers and agricultural producers in nine Southern Ohio counties who experienced crop or production loss due to severe weather this spring. USDA designated nine southern Ohio counties as disaster areas due to excessive rain and flash flooding in May.

The USDA disaster designation will support southern Ohio farmers and our state's largest industry. With this disaster designation, primary and contiguous counties are eligible to be considered for assistance from the Farm Service Agency (FSA) for emergency loans as well as the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program. USDA designated Gallia, Jackson, and Meigs Counties as primary counties and Athens, Lawrence, Pike, Ross, Scioto, and Vinton Counties as contiguous counties.